

- participating in the U.S. delegation to the Open Skies Consultative Commission of the Open Skies Treaty.
- Controlling exports:
 - participating in meetings of the Zangger Committee and the Nuclear Suppliers Group on nuclear weapons related exports;
 - participating in meetings of the Australia Group on chemical and biological weapons related exports;
 - participating in the meetings of the Missile Technology Control Regime.
- Coordinating and reporting on research on arms control, nonproliferation, and disarmament.
- Informing and educating the public:
 - leading the Interagency Working Group on Public Diplomacy for Arms Control and Nonproliferation;

- publishing extensively on arms control, nonproliferation, and disarmament.

My decision to strengthen and revitalize ACDA, combined with continued congressional support, will help the U.S. Government move vigorously to eliminate the overarmament of the Cold War, stem the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and apply arms control solutions to regional problems.

The report offers a summary of the broad range of complex issues that ACDA deals with each day; I commend it to your attention.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters in San Diego, California March 30, 1994

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Mr. President, we understand you talked to the Korean President. What did you tell him?

The President. First of all, I'd like to make a statement about the Middle East, and then I'll answer the Korean question.

The announcement today that Israel and the PLO have reached accord on security measures in Hebron is very, very important. It opens the way to now resume the Israel-PLO dialog on Gaza and Jericho and to complete it successfully. And this, plus the announcement that the negotiations with regard to Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon will all resume in April, means that the Middle East peace process is back on track. It's very encouraging to me, and I hope it would be to all the American people.

North Korea

Now, I just completed—literally, just a few minutes ago, 10, 15 minutes ago—a conversation with President Kim of South Korea about the whole Korean situation and about his recent trip to Japan and to China. He and I reaffirmed our common intention to continue to work to-

gether for a peaceful but firm resolution of this problem with North Korea.

The North Koreans themselves have committed to a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. They have committed to the IAEA inspection process. All we want is for them to keep that commitment as well as their commitment to resume their dialog with South Korea. And we're going to work very closely together in the U.N. and in other ways to try to pursue this. We hope that we will be able to do it in strong cooperation with the Japanese, who have helped us every step of the way, and with the Chinese, who have played a very constructive role in this. And I would also hope that Russia will be able to help in this process. I first raised this whole issue, Korean issue, with President Yeltsin some time ago.

And so we and the South Koreans are working to try to get the cooperation of all these parties and others. But in the end, the North Koreans will have to decide whether they wish to be completely isolated or not or whether they will just keep their commitments and, in return for simply keeping commitments they've already made, have the opportunity to integrate their

nation into a broader and far more prosperous world.

Q. They use very hostile language sometimes. They've implied that sanctions might be, in their mind, a declaration of war. How do you respond to that?

The President. Nothing could be further from the truth. We have done nothing offensive to North Korea. All of our military moves, indeed, the Patriot missile, has been entirely defensive. And any actions that we would support in that regard would be actions to which we have been forced by the North Koreans simply because they have declined to keep commitments that they themselves have made.

If we're going to do business in this world, people have got to be able to rely on the commitments that countries freely undertake. And again, I would say the way is still open to North Korea simply to follow the commitments they've already made. There are ways they can do that. We are going to work very closely with the South Koreans, but I think we have to be firm and persistent and just keep working at it, and we intend to do that.

Q. How optimistic are you about a U.N. resolution, Mr. President?

The President. Well, I don't want to characterize it in that way. I'll just say that we and the South Koreans are exploring, with all the relevant parties, what our options are, and we'll see what develops over the next few days.

Q. Sir, how big of an impediment is the Chinese to try to reach an international agreement on this issue? Tonight the nonaligned nations said they would support China. Is this hurting the chances for an international agreement because of China's problem?

The President. Well, we'll have to see where China comes down on it in the end. The Chinese have always been somewhat more cautious because of their longstanding relationship with North Korea. And also they have—I think they are genuine in not wanting to do anything which provokes some sort of crisis.

On the other hand, I would remind you that the Chinese certainly don't want North Korea

to become a clear nuclear power because of the consequences that might have for them as well as for Japan. And the Chinese are now doing 8 or 10 times as much business with South Korea as with North Korea. So, their long-term economic interests clearly are in pursuing a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula in which North and South Korea are ultimately partners and both trading with a more prosperous China.

So I think their long-term objectives, security and economic, are consistent with what our long-term objectives are. So I hope that we can work through this crisis. But in the end, I will say again, the Chinese, no different from any other country, should want all nations who give their word to keep it.

Q. Sir, is this in retaliation against the U.S. because of our trade problems, our trade differences?

The President. No, I really don't think so. I don't think that has anything to do with this whatever.

Thank you.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Are you going to—[inaudible]—about the Middle East—[inaudible]—Mr. Arafat or anyone?

The President. Well, I'm in contact with the Middle East parties all the time. To date, this has required quite a lot of effort and personal time, and believe me, from here on in, it will require much more, time on the part of the Secretary of State, the President, and all of our resources. So, I think you can say, over the next couple of months, this will require a significant commitment and investment on the part of the United States, and we intend to do that. It's worth it.

Thank you.

NOTE: The exchange began at 5:55 p.m. at a private residence in San Diego. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.